

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 PC-01 VO-03 INSE-00

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 NIC-01 /094 W

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R 032000Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7335

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USCINCSO PASS POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR; PBOV; ES; HON; BH; GT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE

1. PRESIDENT MOLINA HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE CASA PRESIDENCIAL ON JANUARY 30. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR, THE PRESIDENT MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS, AS REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS.

2. HONDURAN ISSUE - ASKED IF HE AGREED WITH A RECENT PRESS STORY FROM TEGUCIGALPA WHICH QUOTED THE HONDURAN FONMIN AS SAYING THAT THE HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR ISSUES CAN ONLY BE SOLVED IN THE CONTEXT OF A TOTAL PACKAGE WHICH MUST INCLUDE DELINEATING THE DISPUTED FRONTIER, MOLINA SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS, AS IT HAS BEEN FROM THE BEGINNING, IN COMPLETE ACCORD WITH A "TOTAL
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SOLUTION...WHICH INCLUDES DISCUSSION OF DELINEATING THE BORDER".

HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "EL SALVADOR IS READY TO DISCUSS ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM, THAT IS: FREE COMMERCE; OPENING OF THE PANAMERICAN HIGHWAY; DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS; FRONTIER PROBLEMS AND OTHER ISSUES."

3. A GUATEMALAN REPORTED ASKED IF THERE DO NOT EXIST "NEGATIVE ECONOMIC INTERESTS WHICH OPPOSE RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THEIR FERRYBOAT BUSINESS". THE PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT IN SUCH A DISPUTE THERE ARE ALWAYS DIVERSE INTERESTS, BUT THAT WHAT IS BEING SOUGHT IS A SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO ALL. ADMITTING THAT NEGATIVE ECONOMIC INTERESTS HAVE BEEN DETECTED, MOLINA INSISTED THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH ARRIVING AT A SOLUTION. HE ENDED THE DISCUSSION ON THE HONDURAS DISPUTE BY REMINDING THE GROUP THAT "WE HAVE PROMISED THAT 1975 WILL BE THE YEAR OF CONCRETE SOLUTIONS."

COMMENT- THE PRESIDENT'S EXPRESSION OF COMMITMENT TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS DELINEATING THE BORDER, WITHOUT REOPENING THE HIGHWAY AND WORKING OUT OTHER PREVIOUSLY DEMANDED "FIRST STEPS", GOES WELL BEYOND ANYTHING HE HAS SAID BEFORE.

4. CUBA POLICY - PRESIDENT MOLINA DENIED THAT THE GOES HAS ANY INTENTION, "AT THIS TIME", TO REESTABLISH EITHER DIPLOMATIC OR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA. HE REITERATED NEVERTHELESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S BELIEF THAT THE OAS SANCTIONS SHOULD BE LIFTED.

5. BELIZE - THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT, A FIRM BELIEVER IN C.A. UNITY AND COOPERATION, WILL GIVE TITS "MORAL SUPPORT" TO GUATEMALA IN ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIMS VIS A VIS BELIZE. HE ADDED THAT THE GOES BELIEVES FIRMLY THAT THE SOLUTION SHOULD BE PURSUED THROUGH NEGOTIATION IN INTERNATIONAL FOR.

6. SALVADORAN IMMIGRANTS IN U.S. - ASKED TO COMMENT ON RECENT STORIES DESCRIBING DEPORTATIONS AND DETENTIONS OF ILLEGAL SALVADORAN RESIDENTS IN THE U.S., THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE GOES CANNOT INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF PERSONS WHO CHOSE TO USE ILLEGAL MEANS TO ENTER ANOTHER NATION AND ARE NOW FACING THE STRICT APPLICATION OF ITS LAW.

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